

NAKIDOE

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

3 JANE DOE 1, Individually and
4 on behalf of all others
similarly situated,

5 Plaintiffs,

6 v.

22 Civ. 10018 (JSR)

7 DEUTSCHE BANK
8 AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT, *et al.*

Hearing

9 Defendants.

10 -----x
11 New York, N.Y.
12 October 20, 2023
2:30 p.m.

13 Before:

14 HON. JED S. RAKOFF,

District Judge

15 APPEARANCES

16 BOISE

17 Attorneys for Plaintiffs
18 BY: DAVID BOISE
SIGRID S. MCCAWLEY
ANDREW VILLACASTIN

19 EDWARDS HENDERSON LEHRMAN, PLLC
20 Attorneys for Plaintiffs
21 BY: BRADLEY J. EDWARDS
BRITTANY HENDERSON

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APPEARANCES CONTINUED

PAUL CASSELL

Attorney for Plaintiffs

ROPES & GARY LLP

Attorneys for Defendant DEUTSCHE BANK AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

BY: DAVID B. HENNES

LISA h. BEBCHICK

ANDREW TODRES

Also Present:

Jane Doe 7, appearing telephonically

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(Case called)

MR. BOISE: Good afternoon, your Honor. David Boise, of Boise Schiller & Flexner LLP. With me is my partner, Sigrid McCawley.

THE COURT: Good afternoon.

MR. EDWARDS: Good afternoon. Bradley Edwards. I am here with my partner, Brittany Henderson.

THE COURT: Good afternoon.

MR. CASSELL: Paul Cassell. I'm an attorney in Salt Lake City, Utah.

MR. VILLACASTIN: Andrew Villacastin on behalf of the class as well, your Honor.

MR. HENNES: Good afternoon, your Honor. David Hennes of Ropes & Grey on behalf of Duetsche Bank along with my partners Lisa Bebachick and Andrew Todres.

THE COURT: Good afternoon. We are here to consider final approval of the proposed class-action settlement as well as the issue of attorneys' fees. There were no opt-outs and there was only one objection filed. Although the objection arguably was technically defective, I have decided to consider it on the merits. The objector, who we will refer to as "Jane Doe 7" has filed numerous submissions to the Court, all of which I have considered. But I also, at her request, gave her the opportunity to appear remotely and be heard.

So, Jane Doe 7, are you there?

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1 JANE DOE 7: Yes, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: All right. So, if there is anything you
3 wanted to add now in addition to your written submissions, now
4 would be the time to do so.

5 JANE DOE 7: Thank you, your Honor. I don't
6 necessarily want to add anything. I did request discovery. I
7 wanted to assure or be assured that the Court had received that
8 request and was considering it. And also, I wanted to discuss
9 the interests of having a continuance granted for the final
10 fairness hearing so the request for discovery could be further
11 reviewed by the Court and counsels on the record.

12 THE COURT: So, I received your submission very
13 recently requesting discovery and requesting a continuance.
14 So, I have had a chance to consider those. Anything else that
15 you wanted to raise?

16 JANE DOE 7: No, your Honor. I believe everything I
17 submitted in writing was pretty detailed.

18 THE COURT: OK. So, I should note for the record,
19 that counsel has submitted substantial objections both
20 substantively and otherwise to the submissions of the objector
21 and the only thing that counsel did not have a chance to
22 respond to because it was only submitted very recently was the
23 request for continuance and for discovery. Does counsel want
24 to say anything about that?

25 MR. BOISE: Just very briefly, your Honor. We would

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1 urge the Court that that would not be appropriate. I don't
2 think the objector has identified any area of discovery that
3 would be appropriate and granting the continuance would simply
4 delay getting the money that is available to the victims. For
5 the reasons that we put in our papers, we don't think the
6 objection is well stated, and there is nothing in with what the
7 objector has said that would indicate how discovery would
8 further the objections that she has raised.

9 THE COURT: All right. And is there anything the
10 objector wanted to say in response?

11 JANE DOE 7: Yes, your Honor. We haven't had an
12 opportunity to fully read or review the opposition that counsel
13 submitted to discovery or the objections. And it is my
14 understanding, based upon the limited review that I have made
15 of their opposition to a discovery request or any of the
16 objections raised, is that with discovery, I believe I can
17 better establish the claims raised in my objection. And I
18 would ask the Court to consider that in my favor and favor
19 granting either the continuance or discovery to allow me time
20 to review the opposition to the objections and to respond to
21 them and also, I do believe discovery would help support the
22 claims raised in the objection.

23 THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much. While I
24 am impressed with the energy of the objector who has filed not
25 just in this case but in other cases numerous objections and

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1 concerns. In the end, I am not persuaded by them, nor do I see
2 a need for any continuance or discovery. So, the objector's
3 objection and related requests are denied. I will, however,
4 issue a written opinion setting forth the reasons for my denial
5 so that the objector will have that in writing and can pursue
6 appeal or the like.

7 So, let's turn now to the settlement itself. And I
8 have only two small questions for counsel -- three, I should
9 say. But I should first note that I have, of course, spent a
10 lot of time considering whether the settlement is fair
11 reasonable and adequate and more particularly the factors
12 highlighted under Rule 23(e) as well as the so-called Grinnell
13 factors and I have considered all nine of those factors at some
14 length.

15 Having said that, I find I only have three questions.
16 The first is what is the difference between the tier 1 and tier
17 2 questionnaires. That is to say, how much more information
18 must an individual submit with the tier-2 questionnaire in
19 order to be eligible for a payment of up to \$5 million. So,
20 let me stop there and see what the answer is.

21 MR. BOISE: Certainly, your Honor. The questionnaire
22 for tier 2 is really a process for opening the door to not only
23 the submission of additional information, but for interview and
24 the like. And the claims administrator is and will be
25 conducting not only review of whatever information that the

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1 person wants to submit that will answer the various factors
2 that are identified in the notice in terms of the nature, the
3 duration, and the other aspects of the particular persons'
4 abuse. And then to the extent that the survivor wants to have
5 an opportunity, she can present orally any additional
6 information. So, it is really to allow the survivor to come
7 forward with whatever additional information.

8 The tier one questionnaire simply to identify somebody
9 and make sure that they belong in the class.

10 THE COURT: All right. I should mention, as I did at
11 the previous hearing, that this Court reserves the right to be
12 in contact with the claims administrator to, if necessary,
13 review particular determinations by the claims administrator.
14 So, the claims administrator does not have a blank check.
15 Obviously, I selected the claims administrator because I had
16 great confidence in the claims administrator's qualifications.
17 But we will continue to monitor that situation.

18 My second question is, I spent some time reviewing
19 your time sheets. Thank you for providing them. It certainly
20 reminded why I was so relieved to go on the bench. But I
21 wanted to be sure -- since we are going to be considering a
22 parallel settlement shortly -- that there is no double billing
23 here, that these are the times submitted with your time sheets
24 were all time spent on the Duetsche Bank and just Duetsche
25 Bank.

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1 MR. BOISE: That's correct, your Honor. We have two
2 separate billing numbers. The court will understand, that to
3 some extent, work that was billed to Duetsche Bank had some
4 relevance to JP Morgan and vice versa. But there was no time
5 billed to both.

6 THE COURT: Very good. My last question relates to
7 the schedule of payment of attorneys' fees. My practice for
8 many years has been, after I determine how much attorneys' fees
9 to award, to direct 50 percent of them to be paid immediately
10 and the other 50 percent at the conclusion of the distribution
11 to the class members, both because that gives class counsel
12 motivation to be very attentive to a request for the claims
13 administrator and also, because I just think it's appropriate
14 that counsel not be fully paid until all the victims have been
15 paid. So, is there any objection to that?

16 MR. BOISE: None at all, your Honor. I think that is
17 entirely appropriate way to do it.

18 THE COURT: All right. So --

19 JANE DOE 7: Your honor?

20 THE COURT: I'm sorry?

21 JANE DOE 7: Your Honor, I have an objection.

22 THE COURT: Well, I saw your objections to the
23 attorneys' fees. If you have an objection to the procedure I
24 just mentioned, yes, you may state it now.

25 JANE DOE 7: My objection is that would have some

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1 relation to the claims administrator procedure. At this time,
2 I am not sure if the Court is aware I personally -- a copy of
3 the notice nor any of the questionnaire, and I wasn't able to
4 submit a claim. With that said, I guess my question would the
5 Court or the attorneys solution or instruction for dealing with
6 that issue?

7 THE COURT: I'm sorry, I am not quite following.
8 There was a slight interruption. Would you want to say what
9 your question is again?

10 JANE DOE 7: So, my question is would the Court have
11 any order or instructions for how to deal with the fact that I
12 have not received any of the notices regarding assessment or
13 any of the claims form or submissions instructions. I don't
14 have a claim form submitted with the claims administrator. So,
15 I would be concerned or object to the attorneys being paid
16 immediately when there is still an issue with myself.

17 THE COURT: OK. So, thank you for raising that. I
18 will I don't think that is a sufficient reason to prevent the
19 immediate payment of half of attorneys' fees. But I will
20 address that and consider that as further in my written
21 response to your various objections. So, I will add that to
22 the matters that I will rule on or will have ruled on. So,
23 again you will have my written response.

24 So, I don't think particularly useful for me to go
25 through each and every one of the numerous factors that the

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1 Court must consider, though I have done so and have considered
2 them each carefully. But the bottom line, really, is this is
3 in the Court's view a terrific settlement. It is very fair.
4 It is very reasonable. It is very admirable.

5 I am very impressed that counsel for both sides were
6 able in this highly contentious case to come up with such a
7 well-designed settlement. So, I am going to sign now the
8 proposed order that was submitted which I have also reviewed,
9 proving the settlement. And I will hand that to my courtroom
10 deputy to docket.

11 With respect to attorneys' fees, although an award of
12 30 percent is not unusual in this district and other districts,
13 this Court has frequently cut the fees back in other cases
14 because I had problems either with the amount of the settlement
15 or the adequacy of the settlement or the amount of work done or
16 a variety of different factors. And I have also sometimes been
17 impacted by the sheer amount of the settlement. For example,
18 when I approved, the settlement a couple of years ago, *in re*
19 *Petrobras* where the settlement was \$3.2 billion, there was no
20 way I was going to give 30 percent to the lawyers. I think I
21 gave 6 percent if I remember correctly, but they survived,
22 nonetheless. But here, I think the performance of counsel was
23 extraordinarily laudable and more than warrants the 30 percent.

24 So, I am accepting that. That comes to \$1,014,763.33
25 together with interest. And I have taken the proposed order

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1 and simply added the following language: 50 percent of the
2 fees shall be paid immediately, the remainder following payment
3 to the class members provided in accordance with the plan of
4 allocation.

5 So, I have signed -- I'm sorry. Yes?

6 MR. HENNES: If I might, for a moment -- and I might
7 have to confer my co-counsel -- when you say "immediately,"
8 there is a procedure in the stipulation of settlement that
9 allows for the order to become final upon the exhaustion of
10 appeals and the like. So, when you say "immediately," I assume
11 that is when the \$75 million is payable by the bank.

12 THE COURT: Yes. Thank you. Since I handwrote my
13 additional words, that always causes the clerk to get
14 consternation, I will revise the wording to reflect the good
15 point you just made.

16 MR. HENNES: Thank you, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: That will issue later today.

18 So, anything else we need to take up today?

19 MR. BOISE: Not from the plaintiffs, your Honor.

20 MR. HENNES: Not from Duetsche Bank.

21 THE COURT: Very good. Thanks very much.

22 (Adjourned)
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